

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 7-11, 16-17 and 19-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

a liquid crystal display element;

a direct backlight having a light source located right below a back surface of the liquid crystal element;

a substantially rectangular diffusion plate which is interposed between the liquid crystal display element and the light source;

at least one optical sheet which is arranged between the diffusion plate and the liquid crystal display element; and

a transparent sheet which is arranged between the diffusion plate and the light source and has a contour which is substantially equal to a contour of the diffusion plate,

wherein said at least one optical sheet is brought into contact with the diffusion plate, and ~~respective major portions or respective whole portions of~~ four sides of the transparent sheet are adhered to the diffusion plate so as to ~~[[seal]]~~ define a gap therebetween that is sealed from outside air.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the transparent sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate using a pressure sensitive adhesive double-sided tape or a tacky adhesive agent.

4. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.

5. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein

the liquid crystal display device includes a spacer which restricts a warp quantity of the diffusion plate in the direction toward the light source.

6. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 5, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the transparent sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate using a pressure sensitive adhesive double-sided tape or a tacky adhesive agent.

13. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.

14. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the liquid crystal display device includes a spacer which restricts a warp quantity of the diffusion plate in the direction toward the light source.

15. (Original) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 14, wherein at least one optical sheet is adhered to the diffusion plate.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the light source includes a plurality of fluorescent lamps.

19-20. (Cancelled)